

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO S. 5, AS PASSED THE SENATE
OFFERED BY MR. CONYERS OF MICHIGAN, MR.
NADLER OF NEW YORK, AND MS. JACKSON-
LEE OF TEXAS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

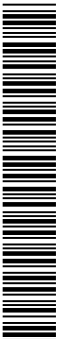
1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCE; TABLE OF CON-**
2 **TENTS.**

3 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
4 “Class Action Fairness Act of 2005”.

5 (b) REFERENCE.—Whenever in this Act reference is
6 made to an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other
7 provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to
8 a section or other provision of title 28, United States
9 Code.

10 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
11 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; reference; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.
- Sec. 3. Consumer class action bill of rights and improved procedures for interstate class actions.
- Sec. 4. Federal district court jurisdiction for interstate class actions.
- Sec. 5. Removal of interstate class actions to Federal district court.
- Sec. 6. Report on class action settlements.
- Sec. 7. Enactment of Judicial Conference recommendations.
- Sec. 8. Rulemaking authority of Supreme Court and Judicial Conference.
- Sec. 9. Effective date.



1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Class action lawsuits are an important and
4 valuable part of the legal system when they permit
5 the fair and efficient resolution of legitimate claims
6 of numerous parties by allowing the claims to be ag-
7 gregated into a single action against a defendant
8 that has allegedly caused harm.

9 (2) Over the past decade, there have been
10 abuses of the class action device that have—

11 (A) harmed class members with legitimate
12 claims and defendants that have acted respon-
13 sibly;

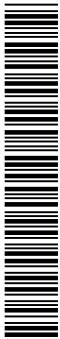
14 (B) adversely affected interstate commerce;
15 and

16 (C) undermined public respect for our judi-
17 cial system.

18 (3) Class members often receive little or no ben-
19 efit from class actions, and are sometimes harmed,
20 such as where—

21 (A) counsel are awarded large fees, while
22 leaving class members with coupons or other
23 awards of little or no value;

24 (B) unjustified awards are made to certain
25 plaintiffs at the expense of other class mem-
26 bers; and



1 (C) confusing notices are published that
2 prevent class members from being able to fully
3 understand and effectively exercise their rights.

4 (4) Abuses in class actions undermine the na-
5 tional judicial system, the free flow of interstate
6 commerce, and the concept of diversity jurisdiction
7 as intended by the framers of the United States
8 Constitution, in that State and local courts are—

9 (A) keeping cases of national importance
10 out of Federal court;

11 (B) sometimes acting in ways that dem-
12 onstrate bias against out-of-State defendants;
13 and

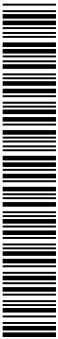
14 (C) making judgments that impose their
15 view of the law on other States and bind the
16 rights of the residents of those States.

17 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

18 (1) assure fair and prompt recoveries for class
19 members with legitimate claims;

20 (2) restore the intent of the framers of the
21 United States Constitution by providing for Federal
22 court consideration of interstate cases of national
23 importance under diversity jurisdiction; and

24 (3) benefit society by encouraging innovation
25 and lowering consumer prices.



1 **SEC. 3. CONSUMER CLASS ACTION BILL OF RIGHTS AND IM-**
2 **PROVED PROCEDURES FOR INTERSTATE**
3 **CLASS ACTIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part V is amended by inserting
5 after chapter 113 the following:

6 **“CHAPTER 114—CLASS ACTIONS**

“Sec.

“1711. Definitions.

“1712. Coupon settlements.

“1713. Protection against loss by class members.

“1714. Protection against discrimination based on geographic location.

“1715. Notifications to appropriate Federal and State officials.

“1716. Sunshine in court records.

7 **“§ 1711. Definitions**

8 “In this chapter:

9 “(1) CLASS.—The term ‘class’ means all of the
10 class members in a class action.

11 “(2) CLASS ACTION.—The term ‘class action’
12 means any civil action filed in a district court of the
13 United States under rule 23 of the Federal Rules of
14 Civil Procedure or any civil action that is removed
15 to a district court of the United States that was
16 originally filed under a State statute or rule of judi-
17 cial procedure authorizing an action to be brought
18 by 1 or more representatives as a class action. The
19 term ‘class action’ does not include any civil action
20 brought by, or on behalf of, any State attorney gen-
21 eral or the chief prosecuting or civil attorney of any
22 county or city within a State.



1 “(3) CLASS COUNSEL.—The term ‘class coun-
2 sel’ means the persons who serve as the attorneys
3 for the class members in a proposed or certified
4 class action.

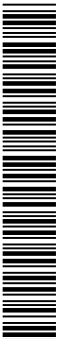
5 “(4) CLASS MEMBERS.—The term ‘class mem-
6 bers’ means the persons (named or unnamed) who
7 fall within the definition of the proposed or certified
8 class in a class action.

9 “(5) PLAINTIFF CLASS ACTION.—The term
10 ‘plaintiff class action’ means a class action in which
11 class members are plaintiffs.

12 “(6) PROPOSED SETTLEMENT.—The term ‘pro-
13 posed settlement’ means an agreement regarding a
14 class action that is subject to court approval and
15 that, if approved, would be binding on some or all
16 class members.

17 “(7) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
18 the several States of the United States, the District
19 of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the
20 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
21 and any territory or possessions of the United
22 States.

23 “(8) STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The term
24 ‘State attorney general’ means the chief legal officer
25 of a State.



1 **“§ 1712. Coupon settlements**

2 “(a) CONTINGENT FEES IN COUPON SETTLE-
3 MENTS.—If a proposed settlement in a class action pro-
4 vides for a recovery of coupons to a class member, the
5 portion of any attorney’s fee award to class counsel that
6 is attributable to the award of the coupons shall be based
7 on the value to class members of the coupons that are
8 redeemed.

9 “(b) OTHER ATTORNEY’S FEE AWARDS IN COUPON
10 SETTLEMENTS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—If a proposed settlement in
12 a class action provides for a recovery of coupons to
13 class members, and a portion of the recovery of the
14 coupons is not used to determine the attorney’s fee
15 to be paid to class counsel, any attorney’s fee award
16 shall be based upon the amount of time class counsel
17 reasonably expended working on the action.

18 “(2) COURT APPROVAL.—Any attorney’s fee
19 under this subsection shall be subject to approval by
20 the court and shall include an appropriate attorney’s
21 fee, if any, for obtaining equitable relief, including
22 an injunction, if applicable. Nothing in this sub-
23 section shall be construed to prohibit application of
24 a lodestar with a multiplier method of determining
25 attorney’s fees.



1 “(c) ATTORNEY’S FEE AWARDS CALCULATED ON A
2 MIXED BASIS IN COUPON SETTLEMENTS.—If a proposed
3 settlement in a class action provides for an award of cou-
4 pons to class members and also provides for equitable re-
5 lief, including injunctive relief—

6 “(1) that portion of the attorney’s fee to be
7 paid to class counsel that is based upon a portion of
8 the recovery of the coupons shall be calculated in ac-
9 cordance with subsection (a); and

10 “(2) that portion of the attorney’s fee to be
11 paid to class counsel that is not based upon a por-
12 tion of the recovery of the coupons shall be cal-
13 culated in accordance with subsection (b).

14 “(d) SETTLEMENT VALUATION EXPERTISE.—In a
15 class action involving the awarding of coupons, the court
16 may, in its discretion upon the motion of a party, receive
17 expert testimony from a witness qualified to provide infor-
18 mation on the actual value to the class members of the
19 coupons that are redeemed.

20 “(e) JUDICIAL SCRUTINY OF COUPON SETTLE-
21 MENTS.—In a proposed settlement under which class
22 members would be awarded coupons, the court may ap-
23 prove the proposed settlement only after a hearing to de-
24 termine whether, and making a written finding that, the
25 settlement is fair, reasonable, and adequate for class mem-



1 bers. The court, in its discretion, may also require that
2 a proposed settlement agreement provide for the distribu-
3 tion of a portion of the value of unclaimed coupons to 1
4 or more charitable or governmental organizations, as
5 agreed to by the parties. The distribution and redemption
6 of any proceeds under this subsection shall not be used
7 to calculate attorneys' fees under this section.

8 **“§ 1713. Protection against loss by class members**

9 “The court may approve a proposed settlement under
10 which any class member is obligated to pay sums to class
11 counsel that would result in a net loss to the class member
12 only if the court makes a written finding that nonmone-
13 tary benefits to the class member substantially outweigh
14 the monetary loss.

15 **“§ 1714. Protection against discrimination based on**
16 **geographic location**

17 “The court may not approve a proposed settlement
18 that provides for the payment of greater sums to some
19 class members than to others solely on the basis that the
20 class members to whom the greater sums are to be paid
21 are located in closer geographic proximity to the court.

22 **“§ 1715. Notifications to appropriate Federal and**
23 **State officials**

24 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—

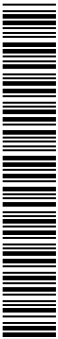


1 “(1) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL OFFICIAL.—In
2 this section, the term ‘appropriate Federal official’
3 means—

4 “(A) the Attorney General of the United
5 States; or

6 “(B) in any case in which the defendant is
7 a Federal depository institution, a State depository
8 institution, a depository institution holding
9 company, a foreign bank, or a nondepository institution
10 subsidiary of the foregoing (as such
11 terms are defined in section 3 of the Federal
12 Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813)), the
13 person who has the primary Federal regulatory
14 or supervisory responsibility with respect to the
15 defendant, if some or all of the matters alleged
16 in the class action are subject to regulation or
17 supervision by that person.

18 “(2) APPROPRIATE STATE OFFICIAL.—In this
19 section, the term ‘appropriate State official’ means
20 the person in the State who has the primary regulatory
21 or supervisory responsibility with respect to
22 the defendant, or who licenses or otherwise authorizes
23 the defendant to conduct business in the State,
24 if some or all of the matters alleged in the class action
25 are subject to regulation by that person. If



1 there is no primary regulator, supervisor, or licens-
2 ing authority, or the matters alleged in the class ac-
3 tion are not subject to regulation or supervision by
4 that person, then the appropriate State official shall
5 be the State attorney general.

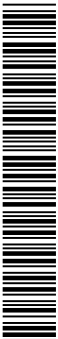
6 “(b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after a
7 proposed settlement of a class action is filed in court, each
8 defendant that is participating in the proposed settlement
9 shall serve upon the appropriate State official of each
10 State in which a class member resides and the appropriate
11 Federal official, a notice of the proposed settlement con-
12 sisting of—

13 “(1) a copy of the complaint and any materials
14 filed with the complaint and any amended com-
15 plaints (except such materials shall not be required
16 to be served if such materials are made electronically
17 available through the Internet and such service in-
18 cludes notice of how to electronically access such
19 material);

20 “(2) notice of any scheduled judicial hearing in
21 the class action;

22 “(3) any proposed or final notification to class
23 members of—

24 “(A)(i) the members’ rights to request ex-
25 clusion from the class action; or



1 “(ii) if no right to request exclusion exists,
2 a statement that no such right exists; and

3 “(B) a proposed settlement of a class ac-
4 tion;

5 “(4) any proposed or final class action settle-
6 ment;

7 “(5) any settlement or other agreement contem-
8 poraneously made between class counsel and counsel
9 for the defendants;

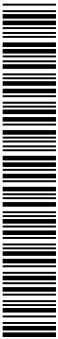
10 “(6) any final judgment or notice of dismissal;

11 “(7)(A) if feasible, the names of class members
12 who reside in each State and the estimated propor-
13 tionate share of the claims of such members to the
14 entire settlement to that State’s appropriate State
15 official; or

16 “(B) if the provision of information under sub-
17 paragraph (A) is not feasible, a reasonable estimate
18 of the number of class members residing in each
19 State and the estimated proportionate share of the
20 claims of such members to the entire settlement; and

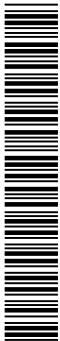
21 “(8) any written judicial opinion relating to the
22 materials described under subparagraphs (3)
23 through (6).

24 “(c) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS NOTIFICATION.—



1 “(1) FEDERAL AND OTHER DEPOSITORY INSTI-
2 TUTIONS.—In any case in which the defendant is a
3 Federal depository institution, a depository institu-
4 tion holding company, a foreign bank, or a non-de-
5 pository institution subsidiary of the foregoing, the
6 notice requirements of this section are satisfied by
7 serving the notice required under subsection (b)
8 upon the person who has the primary Federal regu-
9 latory or supervisory responsibility with respect to
10 the defendant, if some or all of the matters alleged
11 in the class action are subject to regulation or super-
12 vision by that person.

13 “(2) STATE DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—In
14 any case in which the defendant is a State deposi-
15 tory institution (as that term is defined in section 3
16 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C.
17 1813)), the notice requirements of this section are
18 satisfied by serving the notice required under sub-
19 section (b) upon the State bank supervisor (as that
20 term is defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit
21 Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813)) of the State in
22 which the defendant is incorporated or chartered, if
23 some or all of the matters alleged in the class action
24 are subject to regulation or supervision by that per-
25 son, and upon the appropriate Federal official.



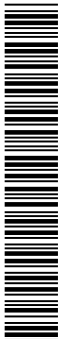
1 “(d) FINAL APPROVAL.—An order giving final ap-
2 proval of a proposed settlement may not be issued earlier
3 than 90 days after the later of the dates on which the
4 appropriate Federal official and the appropriate State offi-
5 cial are served with the notice required under subsection
6 (b).

7 “(e) NONCOMPLIANCE IF NOTICE NOT PROVIDED.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A class member may refuse
9 to comply with and may choose not to be bound by
10 a settlement agreement or consent decree in a class
11 action if the class member demonstrates that the no-
12 tice required under subsection (b) has not been pro-
13 vided.

14 “(2) LIMITATION.—A class member may not
15 refuse to comply with or to be bound by a settlement
16 agreement or consent decree under paragraph (1) if
17 the notice required under subsection (b) was directed
18 to the appropriate Federal official and to either the
19 State attorney general or the person that has pri-
20 mary regulatory, supervisory, or licensing authority
21 over the defendant.

22 “(3) APPLICATION OF RIGHTS.—The rights cre-
23 ated by this subsection shall apply only to class
24 members or any person acting on a class member’s
25 behalf, and shall not be construed to limit any other



1 rights affecting a class member's participation in the
2 settlement.

3 “(f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion shall be construed to expand the authority of, or im-
5 pose any obligations, duties, or responsibilities upon, Fed-
6 eral or State officials.

7 **“§ 1716. Sunshine in court records**

8 “No order, opinion, or record of the court in the adju-
9 dication of a class action, including a record obtained
10 through discovery, whether or not formally filed with the
11 court, may be sealed or subjected to a protective order
12 unless the court makes a finding of fact—

13 “(1) that the sealing or protective order is nar-
14 rowly tailored, consistent with the protection of pub-
15 lic health and safety, and is in the public interest;
16 and

17 “(2) if the action by the court would prevent
18 the disclosure of information, that disclosing the in-
19 formation is clearly outweighed by a specific and
20 substantial interest in maintaining the confiden-
21 tiality of such information.”.

22 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
23 The table of chapters for part V is amended by inserting
24 after the item relating to chapter 113 the following:

“114. Class Actions 1711”.



1 **SEC. 4. FEDERAL DISTRICT COURT JURISDICTION FOR**
2 **INTERSTATE CLASS ACTIONS.**

3 (a) APPLICATION OF FEDERAL DIVERSITY JURISDIC-
4 TION.—Section 1332 is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
6 section (e), and amending the subsection to read as
7 follows:

8 “(e) As used in this section—

9 “(1) the term ‘State’ means each of the several
10 States of the United States, the District of Colum-
11 bia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Com-
12 monwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and
13 any territory or possessions of the United States;
14 and

15 “(2) the term ‘State attorney general’ means
16 the chief legal officer of a State.”; and

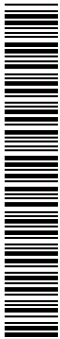
17 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(d)(1) In this subsection—

20 “(A) the term ‘class’ means all of the class
21 members in a class action;

22 “(B) the term ‘class action’—

23 “(i) means any civil action filed under rule
24 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or
25 similar State statute or rule of judicial proce-
26 dure authorizing an action to be brought by 1



1 or more representative persons as a class ac-
2 tion; and

3 “(ii) does not include—

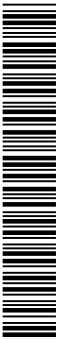
4 “(I) any civil action brought by, or on
5 behalf of, any State attorney general or the
6 chief prosecuting or civil attorney of any
7 county or city within a State;

8 “(II) any class action brought under a
9 State or local law prohibiting discrimina-
10 tion on the basis of race, color religion,
11 sex, national origin, age, disability, or
12 other classification specified in that law; or

13 “(III) any class action or collective ac-
14 tion brought to obtain relief under a State
15 or local law for failure to pay the minimum
16 wage, overtime pay, or wages for all time
17 worked, failure to provide rest or meal
18 breaks, or unlawful use of child labor;

19 “(C) the term ‘class certification order’ means
20 an order issued by a court approving the treatment
21 of some or all aspects of a civil action as a class ac-
22 tion; and

23 “(D) the term ‘class members’ means the per-
24 sons (named or unnamed) who fall within the defini-



1 tion of the proposed or certified class in a class ac-
2 tion.

3 “(2) The district courts shall have original jurisdic-
4 tion of any civil action in which the matter in controversy
5 exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of inter-
6 est and costs, and is a class action in which—

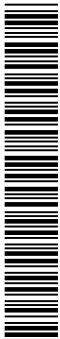
7 “(A) any member of a class of plaintiffs is a
8 citizen of a State different from any defendant;

9 “(B) any member of a class of plaintiffs is a
10 foreign state or a citizen or subject of a foreign state
11 and any defendant is a citizen of a State; or

12 “(C) any member of a class of plaintiffs is a
13 citizen of a State and any defendant is a foreign
14 state or a citizen or subject of a foreign state.

15 “(3) A district court may, in the interests of justice
16 and looking at the totality of the circumstances, decline
17 to exercise jurisdiction under paragraph (2) over a class
18 action in which greater than one-third but less than two-
19 thirds of the members of all proposed plaintiff classes in
20 the aggregate and the primary defendants are citizens of
21 the State in which the action was originally filed based
22 on consideration of—

23 “(A) whether the claims asserted involve mat-
24 ters of national or interstate interest;



1 “(B) whether the claims asserted will be gov-
2 erned by laws of the State in which the action was
3 originally filed or by the laws of other States;

4 “(C) whether the class action has been pleaded
5 in a manner that seeks to avoid Federal jurisdiction;

6 “(D) whether the action was brought in a
7 forum with a distinct nexus with the class members,
8 the alleged harm, or the defendants;

9 “(E) whether the number of citizens of the
10 State in which the action was originally filed in all
11 proposed plaintiff classes in the aggregate is sub-
12 stantially larger than the number of citizens from
13 any other State, and the citizenship of the other
14 members of the proposed class is dispersed among a
15 substantial number of States; and

16 “(F) whether, during the 3-year period pre-
17 ceding the filing of that class action, 1 or more other
18 class actions asserting the same or similar claims on
19 behalf of the same or other persons have been filed.

20 “(4) A district court shall decline to exercise jurisdic-
21 tion under paragraph (2)—

22 “(A)(i) over a class action in which—

23 “(I) greater than two-thirds of the mem-
24 bers of all proposed plaintiff classes in the ag-



1 gregate are citizens of the State in which the
2 action was originally filed;

3 “(II) at least 1 defendant is a defendant—

4 “(aa) from whom significant relief is
5 sought by members of the plaintiff class;

6 “(bb) whose alleged conduct forms a
7 significant basis for the claims asserted by
8 the proposed plaintiff class; and

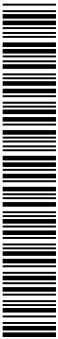
9 “(cc) who is a citizen of the State in
10 which the action was originally filed; and

11 “(III) principal injuries resulting from the
12 alleged conduct or any related conduct of each
13 defendant were incurred in the State in which
14 the action was originally filed; and

15 “(ii) during the 3-year period preceding the fil-
16 ing of that class action, no other class action has
17 been filed asserting the same or similar factual alle-
18 gations against any of the defendants on behalf of
19 the same or other persons; or

20 “(B) two-thirds or more of the members of all
21 proposed plaintiff classes in the aggregate, and the
22 primary defendants, are citizens of the State in
23 which the action was originally filed.

24 “(5) Paragraphs (2) through (4) shall not apply to
25 any class action in which—



1 “(A) the primary defendants are States, State
2 officials, or other governmental entities against
3 whom the district court may be foreclosed from or-
4 dering relief; or

5 “(B) the number of members of all proposed
6 plaintiff classes in the aggregate is less than 100.

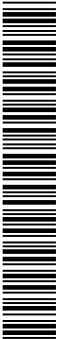
7 “(6) In any class action, the claims of the individual
8 class members shall be aggregated to determine whether
9 the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of
10 \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

11 “(7) Citizenship of the members of the proposed
12 plaintiff classes shall be determined for purposes of para-
13 graphs (2) through (6) as of the date of filing of the com-
14 plaint or amended complaint, or, if the case stated by the
15 initial pleading is not subject to Federal jurisdiction, as
16 of the date of service by plaintiffs of an amended pleading,
17 motion, or other paper, indicating the existence of Federal
18 jurisdiction.

19 “(8) This subsection shall apply to any class action
20 before or after the entry of a class certification order by
21 the court with respect to that action.

22 “(9) Paragraph (2) shall not apply to any class action
23 that solely involves a claim—

24 “(A) concerning a covered security as defined
25 under 16(f)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15



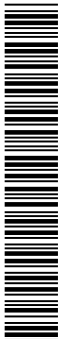
1 U.S.C. 78p(f)(3)) and section 28(f)(5)(E) of the Se-
2 curities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C.
3 78bb(f)(5)(E));

4 “(B) that relates to the internal affairs or gov-
5 ernance of a corporation or other form of business
6 enterprise and that arises under or by virtue of the
7 laws of the State in which such corporation or busi-
8 ness enterprise is incorporated or organized; or

9 “(C) that relates to the rights, duties (including
10 fiduciary duties), and obligations relating to or cre-
11 ated by or pursuant to any security (as defined
12 under section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act of 1933
13 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(1)) and the regulations issued
14 thereunder).

15 “(10) For purposes of this subsection and section
16 1453, an unincorporated association shall be deemed to
17 be a citizen of the State where it has its principal place
18 of business and the State under whose laws it is organized.

19 “(11)(A) For purposes of this subsection and section
20 1453 of this title, a foreign corporation which acquires a
21 domestic corporation in a corporate repatriation trans-
22 action shall be treated as being incorporated in the State
23 under whose laws the acquired domestic corporation was
24 organized.



1 “(B) In this paragraph, the term ‘corporate repatri-
2 ation transaction’ means any transaction in which—

3 “(i) a foreign corporation acquires substantially
4 all of the properties held by a domestic corporation;

5 “(ii) shareholders of the domestic corporation,
6 upon such acquisition, are the beneficial owners of
7 securities in the foreign corporation that are entitled
8 to 50 percent or more of the votes on any issue re-
9 quiring shareholder approval; and

10 “(iii) the foreign corporation does not have sub-
11 stantial business activities (when compared to the
12 total business activities of the corporate affiliated
13 group) in the foreign country in which the foreign
14 corporation is organized.”.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) Section 1335(a)(1) is amended by inserting
17 “subsection (a) or (d) of” before “section 1332”.

18 (2) Section 1603(b)(3) is amended by striking
19 “(d)” and inserting “(e)”.

20 **SEC. 5. REMOVAL OF INTERSTATE CLASS ACTIONS TO FED-**
21 **ERAL DISTRICT COURT.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 89 is amended by adding
23 after section 1452 the following:



1 **“§ 1453. Removal of class actions**

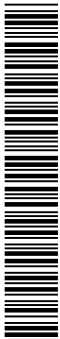
2 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms ‘class’,
3 ‘class action’, ‘class certification order’, and ‘class mem-
4 ber’ shall have the meanings given such terms under sec-
5 tion 1332(d)(1).

6 “(b) IN GENERAL.—A class action may be removed
7 to a district court of the United States in accordance with
8 section 1446 (except that the 1-year limitation under sec-
9 tion 1446(b) shall not apply), without regard to whether
10 any defendant is a citizen of the State in which the action
11 is brought, except that such action may be removed by
12 any defendant without the consent of all defendants.

13 “(c) REVIEW OF REMAND ORDERS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1447 shall apply to
15 any removal of a case under this section, except that
16 notwithstanding section 1447(d), a court of appeals
17 may accept an appeal from an order of a district
18 court granting or denying a motion to remand a
19 class action to the State court from which it was re-
20 moved if application is made to the court of appeals
21 not less than 7 days after entry of the order.

22 “(2) TIME PERIOD FOR JUDGMENT.—If the
23 court of appeals accepts an appeal under paragraph
24 (1), the court shall complete all action on such ap-
25 peal, including rendering judgment, not later than
26 60 days after the date on which such appeal was



1 filed, unless an extension is granted under para-
2 graph (3).

3 “(3) EXTENSION OF TIME PERIOD.—The court
4 of appeals may grant an extension of the 60-day pe-
5 riod described in paragraph (2) if—

6 “(A) all parties to the proceeding agree to
7 such extension, for any period of time; or

8 “(B) such extension is for good cause
9 shown and in the interests of justice, for a pe-
10 riod not to exceed 10 days.

11 “(4) DENIAL OF APPEAL.—If a final judgment
12 on the appeal under paragraph (1) is not issued be-
13 fore the end of the period described in paragraph
14 (2), including any extension under paragraph (3),
15 the appeal shall be denied.

16 “(d) EXCEPTION.—This section shall not apply to
17 any class action that solely involves—

18 “(1) a claim concerning a covered security as
19 defined under section 16(f)(3) of the Securities Act
20 of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 78p(f)(3)) and section
21 28(f)(5)(E) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934
22 (15 U.S.C. 78bb(f)(5)(E));

23 “(2) a claim that relates to the internal affairs
24 or governance of a corporation or other form of busi-
25 ness enterprise and arises under or by virtue of the



1 laws of the State in which such corporation or busi-
2 ness enterprise is incorporated or organized; or

3 “(3) a claim that relates to the rights, duties
4 (including fiduciary duties), and obligations relating
5 to or created by or pursuant to any security (as de-
6 fined under section 2(a)(1) of the Securities Act of
7 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77b(a)(1)) and the regulations
8 issued thereunder).”.

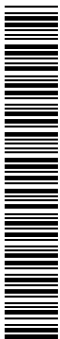
9 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
10 The table of sections for chapter 89 is amended by adding
11 after the item relating to section 1452 the following:

“1453. Removal of class actions.”.

12 (c) CHOICE OF STATE LAW IN INTERSTATE CLASS.—
13 Notwithstanding any other choice of law rule, in any class
14 action over which the United States district courts have
15 jurisdiction and that asserts claims arising under State
16 law concerning products or services marketed, sold, or pro-
17 vided in more than 1 State on behalf of a proposed class
18 which includes citizens of more than 1 such State, as to
19 each such claim and any defense to such claim, the district
20 court shall not deny class certification, in whole or in part,
21 on the ground that the law of more than 1 State will be
22 applied.

23 **SEC. 6. REPORT ON CLASS ACTION SETTLEMENTS.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months after
25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Judicial Conference



1 of the United States, with the assistance of the Director
2 of the Federal Judicial Center and the Director of the Ad-
3 ministrative Office of the United States Courts, shall pre-
4 pare and transmit to the Committees on the Judiciary of
5 the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on
6 class action settlements.

7 (b) CONTENT.—The report under subsection (a) shall
8 contain—

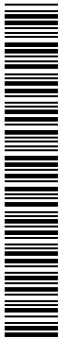
9 (1) recommendations on the best practices that
10 courts can use to ensure that proposed class action
11 settlements are fair to the class members that the
12 settlements are supposed to benefit;

13 (2) recommendations on the best practices that
14 courts can use to ensure that—

15 (A) the fees and expenses awarded to
16 counsel in connection with a class action settle-
17 ment appropriately reflect the extent to which
18 counsel succeeded in obtaining full redress for
19 the injuries alleged and the time, expense, and
20 risk that counsel devoted to the litigation; and

21 (B) the class members on whose behalf the
22 settlement is proposed are the primary bene-
23 ficiaries of the settlement; and

24 (3) the actions that the Judicial Conference of
25 the United States has taken and intends to take to-



1 ward having the Federal judiciary implement any or
2 all of the recommendations contained in the report.

3 (c) **AUTHORITY OF FEDERAL COURTS.**—Nothing in
4 this section shall be construed to alter the authority of
5 the Federal courts to supervise attorneys' fees.

6 **SEC. 7. ENACTMENT OF JUDICIAL CONFERENCE REC-**
7 **COMMENDATIONS.**

8 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the
9 amendments to rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Pro-
10 cedure, which are set forth in the order entered by the
11 Supreme Court of the United States on March 27, 2003,
12 shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act or
13 on December 1, 2003 (as specified in that order), which-
14 ever occurs first.

15 **SEC. 8. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY OF SUPREME COURT**
16 **AND JUDICIAL CONFERENCE.**

17 Nothing in this Act shall restrict in any way the au-
18 thority of the Judicial Conference and the Supreme Court
19 to propose and prescribe general rules of practice and pro-
20 cedure under chapter 131 of title 28, United States Code.

21 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

22 The amendments made by this Act shall apply to any
23 civil action commenced on or after the date of enactment
24 of this Act.

